

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (New): A pipe coupling for connecting a pipe to a counter-flange associated with another pipe in a sealed manner, wherein the pipe is formed with a circumferential groove, the coupling comprising a gasket, a mounting ring, and a mounting flange, wherein said mounting ring has a cone-shaped outer surface and is elastically expandable and grips around the groove by projection portions fitting thereinto and holding the ring affixed to the pipe with said mounting flange having a cone-shaped inner surface and being tightened against the ring, the gasket and the counter-flange.

Claim 22 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is split.

Claim 23 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in an axial plane thereof.

Claim 24 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 22 wherein the ring is split by a cut extending in a non-axial plane thereof.

Claim 25 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of plastic material.

Claim 26 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the projection portions comprise a circular rib.

Claim 27 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 26 wherein the rib is of a generally saw-tooth shape having a right-angled side and a beveled side.

Claim 28 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is formed with a circular recess for the gasket, and the gasket is elastomeric.

Claim 29 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 28 wherein the gasket is formed with an inner slot.

Claim 30 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 29 wherein the gasket is formed with a thin flap.

Claim 31 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring has an outer cone-shaped surface.

Claim 32 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 31 wherein the cone angle is between 150-300 degrees relative to the axis of the ring.

Claim 33 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 32 wherein an upright shoulder extends around the end of the cone-shaped surface.

Claim 34 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the mounting flange is formed with an inner cone-shaped surface matching the cone-shaped surface of the ring.

Claim 35 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 34 wherein the mounting flange is formed with a series of bores through which tightening bolts are adapted to pass.

Claim 36 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 31 wherein the series of bores are partly surrounded by arcuate projections.

Claim 37 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is composed of more than one segment, the segments being held together by an elastic band.

Claim 38 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 37 wherein metal inserts are interposed between adjacent segments.

Claim 39 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 38 wherein the segments and inserts are held together by the elastic band threaded therethrough.

Claim 40 (New): The pipe coupling as claimed in claim 21 wherein the ring is made of sheet metal.